

2. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 23, line 11, to read as follows:

The releasable attachment means [1082] such as a hook 1112 and catch 1111 preferably comprises a complimentary hook 1112 and catch 1111 means [1081, 1111]. In the embodiment shown in FIG. 12, the [releasable attachment means 1081] hook 1112 is located on each side of the flexible blade means sole 108, in proximity to the toe end of the footwear assembly 2050. The distal end of the footwear assembly 2050 preferably includes at least one aperture 1085 sized to closely receive at least one complimentary pin or cone 1105, located on the removable end [2000] of the tail fin assembly 2070 on [of] the flexible blade means [108] 110. The combination pin and complimentary aperture 1105, 1085 serve to align and position the footwear assembly 2050 in relation to the removable [end 2000 of the flexible blade means 108] tail fin assembly 2070.

3. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 14, line 12, to read as follows:

As shown in FIG. 1B, the channeling scoops 102 preferably constitute the "RIGID FOREBODY" 1001 of the swim fin apparatus 1000. This ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1000 uses the foot-pocket 101 and the channeling scoops 102 to form the main thrust of the propulsion system.

This thrust, together with the vortices created by this thrust, are shaped and enhanced by the "FLEXIBLE AFTERBODY" [1101,] 1002 which is formed by the flexible blade means 110. Finally, the tail fin 120, or "TAIL" 1003, enhances propulsion by creating "lift" from the channeled and enhanced water flowing over it at a proper angle of attack, as shown in dashed lines in FIG. 13 and FIG. 14.

4. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 15, line 9, to read as follows:

This drawing also shows small [vortices formed by] grooves, foot pocket grooves 1011, flexible blade grooves 1101, channeling scoop grooves 1021 and tail fin grooves 1201, in the surface of the swim fin apparatus 1000 to enhance the production of vortices during swimming. These small foot pocket grooves 1011, flexible blade grooves 1101, channeling scoop grooves 1021, and tail fin grooves 1201 imitate the scales and small grooves found on the skin and fins of some fish. It is speculated that these small vortices act as small "ball bearings" which serve to reduce drag. These small foot pocket grooves 1011, flexible blade grooves 1101, channeling scoop grooves 1021 and tail fin grooves 1201 are not essential to the function of this swim fin apparatus 1000, and the swim fin apparatus 2000 disclosed herein[.]. The swim fin apparatus 2000 may alternately be provided with smooth

surfaces. The surface of the swim fin apparatus 1000 may also be textured in a manner shown in FIG. 13, to simulate fish scales. These foot pocket grooves 1011, flexible blade grooves 1101, channeling scoop grooves 1021 and tail fin grooves 1201 enhance performance, but may be eliminated, should they cause difficulty in manufacturing.

5. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 22, line 18, to read as follows:

FIG. 12 illustrates an embodiment 2000 of the swim fin apparatus that has many of the traits of the swimming sandal/shoe/short swim fin apparatus 1400 found in FIG. 9[, and FIG. 11]. The swim fin apparatus 2000 contains a foot-pocket 101, opposing channeling scoops 102 located on opposite sides of the foot-pocket 101, the [sole, a first part of a symmetrical] flexible blade sole 108, [a first part of a symmetrical flexible blade 108,] and at least one securing strap 103.

6. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 23, line 4, to read as follows:

In this embodiment, the symmetrical flexible blade sole 108 is detachable from the [sole portion 108, so that the distal end 110 of the] flexible blade [108] 110, and may be selectively attached and removed, for ease of shipping and handling. By providing a releasable attachment means

[1081] such as a hook 1112 and catch 1111 at the toe end [1085] of the flexible blade sole 108, the distal end [110] of the flexible blade [108] 110 is removable, enabling the user to easily walk on land, without removing the entire swim fin apparatus[1000 shown in FIG.9].

7. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 29, line 14, to read as follows:

When the hooks and loops type fasteners 1017[, 1019] on the opposing fore straps 1016 are adjustably secured together, the user's foot is secured to the swim fin sandal apparatus [108] 1500. In conventional swim fins that have a stiff blade element extending beyond the toes, as shown in FIG. 3, these securing means would not be sufficient, because the forces involved in swimming with the prior art apparatus are too great. But in this embodiment, shown in FIG. 20, the [foot] swim fin sandal apparatus 1500, and in all other embodiments [representing] like this [ergonomic] swim fin apparatus 1000, the forces are substantially reduced and spread across the entire foot (making this design more ergonomic), thus enabling the use of less severe means of securing the ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1000 to the leg and foot 300.

8. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 30, line 9, to read as follows:

One major difference between this embodiment 1500 as shown in FIG. 18, and most swim fins presently in use and in the prior art (beyond the obvious difference of a channeling scoop 102) is that this embodiment 1500 [would have] preferably has a shaped insole [108] 109, with an instep and shaped body to fit the sole of a user's foot more ergonomically. Left and right soles may be easily accommodated, thus allowing other activities, such as walking or running, in this [sandal] swim fin sandal apparatus 1500. This would preferably entail the production of left and right versions of the swim fin sandal apparatus 1500, as is the case with most shoes and sandals now being worn.

9. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 9, line 3, to read as follows:

The present invention also utilizes a flexible blade and symmetrical wing fin. The flexible blade and wing fin enhance and channel water flow from the flexible blade, and channel the flow of water further, while creating lift with the wing-like tail fin.

10. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 9, line 13, to read as follows:

The foot pocket is preferably connected to a flexible [flat] blade, which is configured to shape and channel the water across a symmetrical

wing-shaped tail fin to provide additional propulsion through lift. The channeling scoops impel the foot to an optimum position during swimming and are preferably removable to selectively increase or decrease the speed and work output of the swimmer.

11. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 10, line 12, to read as follows:

FIG. 1A is a perspective view of one embodiment of this invention, illustrating a swim fin apparatus with [stiff] channeling scoops, a flexible blade, and a [symmetrical] tail fin.

12. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 11, line 7, to read as follows:

FIG. 6 is a perspective drawing of the prior art fin shown in FIG. 4, with the swim fin shown in a [typical position during swimming with up stroke] slightly flexed position.

13. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 11, line 9, to read as follows:

FIG. 7 is a perspective drawing of the prior art swim fin shown in FIG. 4, with the swim fin shown [during a down stroke] in a maximum flexed position.

14. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 11, line 12, to read as follows:

FIG. 9 is a perspective of an embodiment of this invention, where a sandal type of shoe is equipped with [stiff] channeling scoops, to aid in swimming.

15. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 11, line 14, to read as follows:

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of an embodiment of this invention, with a combination foot pocket, channeling scoops, and a flexible [flat] blade.

16. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 11, line 16, to read as follows:

FIG. 11 is a perspective view of an embodiment of this invention, with a combination foot pocket, channeling scoops, and a flexible [flat] blade, and a tail fin.

17. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 11, line 18, to read as follows:

FIG. 12 is a perspective view of an embodiment of this invention, with a combination foot pocket, channeling scoops, with a selectively removable flexible [flat] blade and a tail fin. The tail fin and the [flat]

flexible blade can be selectively removed or reassembled at will, for ease of transport or storage.

18. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 12, line 3, to read as follows:

FIG. 13 is a perspective view of an embodiment of this invention, shown in an up-stroke motion, demonstrating the flow of water across the swim fin in dashed lines. An enlarged view shows the use of texture on the [flat] flexible blade.

19. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 13, line 1, to read as follows:

FIG. 19 is a perspective view of an embodiment of this invention, showing a swim fin with a safety strap, channeling scoops, flexible [flat] blade and tail fin, wherein the foot pocket is completely open.

20. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 13, line 6, to read as follows:

FIG. 21 is a perspective view of an embodiment of this invention, showing a swim fin with a foot pocket that can completely open, channeling scoops, a symmetrical[,] flexible [flat] blade, and a symmetrical tail fin, without a safety strap.

21. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 13, line 9, to read as follows:

FIG. 22 is a rear view of an embodiment of this invention, in which a portion of the flexible blade is shown [with a] connected to the tail fin, with the flow of water across the symmetrical wing-like tail fin shown in dashed lines.

22. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 14, line 2, to read as follows:

FIG. 1A shows a top view of the swim fin apparatus 1000 of the present invention. The user's leg and foot 300 is inserted into the foot-pocket 101 and held in place by a securing strap 103 which extends behind the user's heel. The foot-pocket 101 can be made of a waterproof, semi-flexible material such as polyurethane, plastic or rubber. Preferably, the foot-pocket 101 is resilient and flexible, to conform to the user's foot. Channeling scoops 102 are positioned one each side of the foot-pocket 101, and the channeling scoops 102 are preferably more rigid in construction than the foot-pocket. The channeling scoops 102 are preferably made of a different material than the foot-pocket [102] 101. However, the channeling scoops 102 may alternately be made of the same material used for the foot-pocket 101.

23. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 15, line 2, to read as follows:

In addition to providing an extremely efficient powerful swimming stroke for propulsion during swimming, the channeling scoops 102 also impel the swimmer to position the user's feet in the most advantageous position for each swimming stroke movement. This embodiment of swim fin apparatus 1000 can be manufactured from dissimilar materials and assembled into the embodiment shown in FIG. 1, or manufactured from a single material created as a single unit, to suit manufacturing preference.

24. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 16, line 2, to read as follows:

FIG. 1B shows a second diagrammatic side view of a pelagic free swimming aquatic vehicle 1005, disclosed in US Patent 6,138,604, which illustrate some features of the scientific research being done at major Universities such as MIT and others. Although this work is the study of aquatic vehicles, instead of swim fins, much of the information in these studies, parallels the conclusions that are reached in this ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1000. Note the similarity of the "RIGID FOREBODY" 1001, "FLEXIBLE AFTERBODY" [1101] 1002, and the symmetrical "TAIL" [120] 1003 shown in the preferred embodiment of this invention, and U.S.

patent 6,138,604 shown in FIG. 1B. In FIG. 1, the toes on the leg and foot 300 illustrate that there is a left side 127 and a right side 128 of the tail fin 120 which are equal in size thus making them symmetrical in this swim fin apparatus 1000. The research in 6,138,604 suggests that the “RIGID FOREBODY[‘ 1001]” should constitute 40% to 80% of the proportion of the aquatic vehicle 1005 [(not including the tail.)]. In research done on prototypes of this swim fin apparatus 1000, these figures [seem to hold] true.

25. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 16, line 17, to read as follows:

FIG. 2 and FIG.3 illustrate the differences in mechanical and ergonomic (less stress on the leg and foot 300) advantages by moving the foot-pocket 50, “the Paddle”, of the swim fin closer to the heel of the foot. FIG. 2 represents the swim fin apparatus 1000 presented in the present patent application, and FIG. 3 shows the methods used by the vast majority of swim fins in operation at present.

26. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 18, line 4, to read as follows:

As shown in FIG. 2, the part of the swim fin that causes the water to move initially in the swimming stroke, the foot-pocket 50, is placed between

the heel and toe of the foot. This represents, in a simplified form, the corresponding foot-pocket 101 and channeling scoops 102 found in FIG. 1.

27. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 17, line 11, to read as follows:

As shown in FIG. 2 and FIG. 3, the area enclosed in the foot-pocket 50 is the same, and the leg and foot 300 are held to the foot-pocket 50 by a securing strap 103. The forces 45 pushing down on the leg and foot 300 as it is moved through the water[,] is the same in both cases no matter where the foot-pocket is located, because the area of the leg and foot 300 is the same. The area occupied by the leg and foot 300 overlaps in the area of the foot-pocket 50 as shown in FIG. 2, and therefore exposes less area to water pressure 55 than in FIG. 3.

28. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 18, line 7, to read as follows:

A third advantage to moving the stiff part of the swim fin between the heel and the toes of the foot is that the foot can flex naturally at those joints (making this kind of design more ergonomic), and cannot easily flex when the foot-pocket 50 extends beyond the toes.

29. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 18, line 10, to read as follows:

As shown in FIG. 4, a standard swim fin found in the prior art places the foot of the swimmer into the foot-pocket 250 of the swim fin, where it is held by the securing strap 103. Starting about midway on either side of the foot-pocket[,] 250 there are reinforcing ribs 210. These reinforcing ribs 210 help to stiffen the prior art swim fin 200 (and act like a foot-pocket or paddle.) A second internal set of reinforcing ribs 220 adds more reinforcement and stiffening to the swim fin 200. This combination of reinforcing ribs (although stiffening can be created by simply increasing the thickness of the material of the swim fin 200) provide the prerequisite stiffness to the swim fin 200. One can image that without this stiffness, the swim fin would have as much influence in swimming as an old pair of jeans tied to your feet (all drag and no propulsion.)

30. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 19, line 2, to read as follows:

As shown in FIG.5, the reinforcing ribs 210 can be seen in a side perspective view of the swim fin 200, in an at rest position. FIG. 6 shows that the stiffness of the prior art swim fin 200 extends from the foot-pocket and well beyond the foot-pocket into the prior art swim fin 200 during normal use in swimming.

31. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 20, line 3, to read as follows:

FIG. 9, FIG. 10, FIG. 11 and FIG. 12 show several embodiments of the present ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1400, 1200, 1600, and 2000 respectively.

32. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 20, line 5, to read as follows:

In FIG 9, the flaps 107 found in the swimming sandal/shoe 1300 of FIG. 8 are changed to channeling scoops 102. The channeling scoops 102 may be made of metal, plastic or rubber, etc. The swimming sandal/shoe/short swim fin apparatus 1400 is preferably made of any suitable waterproof material normally used for shoes or swim fins.

33. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 21, line 8, to read as follows:

The channeling scoops 102 allow footwear as small as sandals, shoes, or short swim fins to be used as effectively as swim fins found in the prior art. The channeling scoops 102 also allow the user to use sandals or shoes as beach or general footwear because they allow the foot to flex normally and don't have protruding elements extending in front of the user's toes. The [sole of the sandal/shoe or the sole/ small] flexible blade sole 108 of the

[small] swimming sandal/shoe/short swim fin apparatus 1400 is preferably made of a comfortable material for standing and walking, but sturdy enough to withstand the pressures of walking and swimming.

34. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 21, line 16, to read as follows:

To enhance the flow of water over the swim fin apparatus 1000, a flexible blade 110 is preferably secured to the swim fin apparatus 1000. The flexible blade 110 is symmetrical in FIG. 10, the toes on the leg and foot 300 illustrate that there is a left side 127 and a right side 128 of the flexible blade 110 which are equal in size thus making them symmetrical in swim fin apparatus 1200, and extends symmetrically and outwardly from the channeling scoops 102, in proximity to the user's toes. [This embodiment is shown in FIG. 10.] The flexible blade 110 pushes off of the rolling vortices of water produced by the foot-pocket/sandal/shoe and the channeling scoops 102. In the embodiment shown in FIG.10, the blade tips 117 and centrally positioned channeling groove 116 also help to channel the water into a vector flowing away from the center of the flexible blade 110.

35. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 22, line 13, to read as follows:

Note that the [vortices] tail fin grooves 1201 extend parallel to the leading edge [126]124 of the tail fin 120. Similar types of tail fin grooves 1201 are found on the tail fin of Marlin fish. In the ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1000 disclosed herein, the tail fin grooves 1201 interact with the vortices caused by the channeling scoops 102, foot-pocket 101, and flexible blade 110.

36. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 24, line 1, to read as follows:

Preferably three apertures 1085 and three pins 1105 are used to position and align the distal end [200] of the tail fin assembly 2070 in relation to the footwear assembly 2050. As shown in FIG. 12, the symmetrical tail fin assembly 2070 is releasably secured to a central portion of the distal end [2000, so that both] of the tail fin assembly 2070 and the distal end of [2000 are removable from] the footwear assembly 2050 of the swim fin apparatus 2000.

37. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 24, line 6, to read as follows:

[Alternately, t] The [symmetrical] tail fin 140 is preferably symmetrical because the right side 128 and the left side 127 are equal in size and shape as seen in FIG. 24. The tail fin 140 is removable from the flexible

blade 110 as shown in FIG. 24. In this embodiment, a slit 1421 is provided to closely receive the central portion 146 of the flexible blade [108] 110], and a]. A releasable fastening means 118, and securing receptacle 1181 is utilized to removably secure the extended neck 142 of the tail fin 140 to the flexible blade [108] 110.

38. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 24, line 10, to read as follows:

[FIG. 12 includes many of the features shown in FIG. 9 and FIG. 11. As shown in FIG. 12, the flexible blade 110 is selectively attachable and removable from the foot-pocket 101. This] Being able to remove the tail fin assembly 2070 from the footwear assembly 2050 enables the user to easily remove the portion of the swim fin apparatus [1000] 2000 which extends beyond the user's toes, for ease of walking on land, or for more compact transport or storage. Thus, the [foot-pocket 101] footwear assembly 2050 acts as footwear or a short swim fin similar to the embodiment 1400 in FIG. 9. [A second part of the swim fin embodiment 2000 that contains the flexible blade 110, a means of attachment 1111 to the assembled short swim fin assembly 2050, and a tail fin 120.] [Assembly] Footwear assembly 2050 and tail fin assembly 2070 can be attached to one another with the stabilizing pins 1105 ensuring proper placement and stability during use. This footwear

assembly [of] 2050 and tail fin assembly 2070 serve[s] to make the swim fin embodiment 2000 similar in function to the swim fin embodiment 1600 found in FIG. 11, and the swim fin [embodiment] apparatus 1000 found in FIG. 1.

39. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 25, line 4, to read as follows:

This embodiment 2000 [would] will allow the best of both embodiments, and the flexible blade 110 and tail fin assembly 2070 [could be attached] attach with less effort than similar arrangements in the prior art because the tail fin assembly 2070 is completely flexible in nature and doesn't have to endure the stresses created with a stiff blade connection. Other flexible blades 110 [shapes] and tail fins 120 [shapes not illustrated here could] can also be interchanged in this embodiment 2000 along with different sizes and shapes for the channeling scoops 102 to allow the swimmer to adapt his swim fins for special operations, goals or swimming strengths and conditions.

40. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 25, line 12, to read as follows:

In FIG. 13 and FIG. 14, the flow of water 400 is shown in dashed lines. Notice that the water moved by the foot-pocket 101 flows forward

towards the toes and the flexible blade 110, or to the sides directional channeling curves 105 where it is captured by the channeling scoops 102 and channeled in the same direction to produce thrust. These views also give another perspective for seeing some of the complex curves possible in the channeling scoops 102 and their directional channeling curves 105. The direction of movement of the foot [500] is noted by an arrow 500, with the flow of water denoted by a dashed line [arrow] 400. This embodiment 1640 has a different tail fin 140 than the embodiment 1600 found in FIG. 11. This illustrates the ability to exchange items, such as the tail fin 140, or the channeling scoops 102 to vary the sizes and different shapes to suit the swimming styles, strengths, and swimming conditions. It is also within the scope of this disclosure, and the accompanying claims, to fabricate the swim fin apparatus 1000 disclosed herein as a single unibody construction, to reduce manufacturing costs and increase ease of use and reliability.

41. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 26, line 8, to read as follows:

Notice how the water flow 400 passes through the path of least resistance 130 between the flexible blade 110 and the tail fin 140. When the [attaching arm] extended neck 142 of the tail fin 140 is made flexible, a proper angle of attack between the tail fin [141] 140 and the flow of water

400 will cause lift 600 as seen in FIG. 14. Lift 600 is caused when the water flows over the lifting surface 143 of the tail fin 140, which acts like a wing in both directions of water flow. The left side of the flexible blade 112 is symmetrical with the right side of the flexible blade.

42. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 26, line 14, to read as follows:

The scale or texture 115 formed by overlapping shapes, similar to scales, is seen in the enlarged view, and may be adapted to cover all surfaces, except the tail fin 140. The scale or texture 115 shown in FIG. 13, aids in the creation of small vortices used in this type of propulsion. The scale or texture 115 is an option and is not required. However, when used, the scale or texture 115 is designed to simulate the size and texture of a fish [with] of approximately the same size as the swim fin apparatus 1640.

43. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 27, line 2, to read as follows:

FIG. 14 shows a side view of the swim fin 1650, during an up-stroke [500] foot motion shown with an [dark] arrow 500. This embodiment 1650 has two differences from the embodiment 1640 in FIG. 13. It has a larger channeling scoop 1022 and a directional channeling curve 1052 that can be attached to the foot-pocket 101 by a retaining pin [107] 104. When retaining

pin [107] 104 is wedged into the retaining slot 1071 on the reinforcing side 1027 of the larger channeling scoop 1022. This larger channeling scoop 1022 is designed to extend around the back of the leg and foot 300. This embodiment would eliminate the need for a securing strap 103. This side view also shows the flexible nature of the flexible blade 110 where it bends immediately at the joints of the toes on the leg and foot 300.

44. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 28, line 1, to read as follows:

The water flow 400 in FIG. 16 and FIG. 17 is shown in dashed lines [400]. The channeling scoop 102 channels and directs the flow of water 400 over the flexible blade 110 and the tail fin 140. Notice that the water 400 must flow a longer distance over the tail fin 140 because the lifting surface 143 of the symmetrical tail fin 140 with equal right side 128 and left side 127 making it symmetrical thus causes lift to occur on both sides equally.

In the swim fin apparatus 1680 shown in FIG. 17, the tail curve 141 on the tail fin 140 helps to channel the flow of water to the center of the tail fin 140 creating [a thrust vector] lift 600 . The channeling scoop 102 is permanently attached in this embodiment by rivets 106 or other known fastening means, to the reinforcing [surface] side 1027, which allows the channeling scoop 102 to be made of a dissimilar material to that of the foot-pocket 101.

45. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 28, line 12, to read as follows:

In the swim fin apparatus 1680 shown in FIG. 17, the tail fin 140 is secured to the flexible [flat fin] blade 110 along the central axis, by any known securement means 145, such as a screw, bolt, rivet, allowing flexible [flat fin 100] blade 110 to be of dissimilar material to the tail fin 140. Alternately, the foot-pocket 108, the tail fin 140 and the flexible [flat fin 100] blade 110 may be fabricated as one unit.

46. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 28, line 17, to read as follows:

FIG. 18 and FIG. 20 show different perspective views of a swim fin sandal apparatus 1500. The swim fin sandal apparatus 1500 is made of any appropriate waterproof material used in manufacturing sandals or swim fins. The material selected must be strong enough to support the weight of a user, and the pressures exerted by the channeling scoops 102 during swimming. In this embodiment 1500, the bottom instep strap 1014 and top instep strap 1015 preferably have a system of hooks and loops type fasteners 1017 attached to the [top of the base of the] bottom instep strap 1014 and to the top [of the] instep strap 1015, so that the hooks and loops type fasteners

1017 provide releasable and adjustable securement when the top instep strap 1015 and the bottom instep strap 1014 are engaged.

47. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 29, line 7, to read as follows:

The instep strap loop 1018 will hold the two sides of the swim fin sandal apparatus 1500 together at the instep when the top instep strap [top] 1015 is secured to the bottom instep strap 1014. Any known securement means may be used. In FIG. 18, the instep strap loop 1018 is shown not secured, and in FIG. 20 the instep strap loop is shown secured.

48. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 29, line 11, to read as follows:

[The fore strap 1016 has on its top inside, a section of hooks or loops 1019 that can attach to the complimentary hooks and loops 1017 located on the other side of the shoe.]

49. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 30, line 4, to read as follows:

The rear securing strap 1031 is preferably secured against the heel of the foot by a rear securing strap [108] 103. Any known [securement] fastening means, such as a buckle means 1032 (making the strap adjustable), hook, catch, button or hook and loop type fastening means 1017

may be used to adjustably secure the rear securing strap about the user's heel, and would correspond to the securing strap 103 in other embodiments 1250 such as the one in FIG. 19.

50. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 30, line 17, to read as follows:

In this swim fin sandal apparatus 1500, as shown in FIG. 18, the sole 1082 would also be made of a material (or layers of different materials) that would provide padding for the foot to enable the swim fin sandal apparatus 1500 to be worn comfortably when walking or running, etc. Preferably, sole grooves 1081 are located on instep sole [108] 109, to let the sole breathe in wet or hot environments.

51. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 31, line 3, to read as follows:

When used, the sole grooves 1081 allow air get to the bottom of the foot. In FIG. 20, the opposing fore straps 1016[,] and hooks and loops type fasteners 1017 [is] are seen open[with the loop section 019 of the fore strap 1016 exposed]. In FIG. 20, the complex curves of the channeling scoop 102, and more particularly, the directional channeling [scoop] curves 105 is shown. The reinforcing [surface] side 1027 of the channeling scoop 102 is

preferably attached to the swim fin sandal embodiment 1500, with any known securement means 1066.

52. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 31, line 9, to read as follows:

In FIG. 19, the swim fin apparatus 1250 may be similar to other embodiments already described, with one exception. This swim fin apparatus 1250 is secured to the foot, in a manner similar to the embodiment 1500, shown in FIG. 18. However, a broader set of lower and upper securing flaps 1012, 1013 respectively would provide a temporary foot-pocket [(]shown in FIG.19 by the closed lower and upper securing flaps [straps] 1012 and 1013.[)] This again could be achieved with simple hook and loop materials (with some relatively simple means of attachment to the securing flaps 1012, 1013 respectively.) This would provide two important advantages. First, the entire fin could be cast with a simple two part mold and thus reduce the cost and complexity of production. Second, the overlapping flaps would enable some adjustment in the size of the temporary foot-pocket, for better adjustment of the swim fin apparatus to the swimmer's foot.

53. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 32, line 1, to read as follows:

As seen in the side view of FIG. 21, the swim fin apparatus 1270 shows the two securing flaps 1012 and 1013 in an open position. The hooks and loops type fasteners [1014] 1017 are preferably attached by any known means to the underside of the upper securing flap 1013. Preferably, hook and loop [releasable securement means] type fasteners 1017 are secured to the top of flap 1012 and to the top portion of the upper securing flap [1014] 1013, so that the flaps are releasably secured when pressed together.

54. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 32, line 6, to read as follows:

On the underside of flap 1012, more hooks and loops type fasteners [1015] 1017 may be provided for multiple reasons. First, the hook and loop type fasteners 1017 material would be more gentle and thus more ergonomic when positioned in relation to the top of the foot (not shown here) than a hard plastic material. Further, the use of the hook and loop type fastener [means 1015] 1017 [could be made to] can secure the [foot pad] instep sole [108] 109 to the underside of securing flap 1012.

55. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 32, line 11, to read as follows:

Hook and loop type fasteners 1017 means could also be used to attach the top of the ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1250 to existing boots/shoes.

This would allow for very quick, easy, and adjustable entry and exit of the user's foot into the temporary foot-pocket. By stepping into the open foot-pocket created by pulling the two securing flaps 1012 and 1013 apart, the top of the swim boot/shoe equipped with hooks and loops type fasteners 1017 would quickly be secured to the swim fin apparatus 1270. After the [second] upper securing flap 1013 is secured to the [first] lower securing flap 1012, the user's foot within the hook equipped boot/shoe would be securely fastened to the swim fin apparatus 1270. Because the channeling scoop 102 decreases the pressure necessary for good swimming propulsion, and because it spreads that pressure over a wider area, the securing flaps 1012 and 1013 can be made of much thinner and more flexible material than prior art foot-pocket material. It should be noted that in this swim fin apparatus 1270, the need for a securing strap 103 at the back of the foot would be optional, limited or unnecessary.

56. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 33, line 5, to read as follows:

FIG. 22 shows a perspective view of part of a flexible blade 110 and tail fin 120, with the water flow 400 shown in dashed lines. Although the tail fin apparatus shown in FIG. 22 and FIG. 23 differ in some ways, they are substantially the same type of "wing" form where the symmetrical wings

(where the left side 127 and the right side 128 are mirror images of each other) are straight in the embodiment 120 shown in FIG. 22, and curved in the embodiment 140 shown in FIG. 23.

57. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 33, line 11, to read as follows:

Each tail fin apparatus shown in FIG. 22 and FIG. 23[,] has a connecting point 125 and a securement means 145 respectively located along the longitudinal central axis of the swim fin apparatus 1000. The connecting point 125 or a securement means 145 can be a permanent attachment, a continuation of the flexible blade 110, or a releasable connecting means, 118, and 1181. In FIG. 22, the tail fin [apparatus] 120 has a leading edge 124 and a trailing edge 121 that extend in substantially straight lines across the tail fin [143] 120. To decrease the drag created by vortices produced by moving through water, the tail fin edge 129 located at the distal sides of the tail fin 120, has a lifting surface that creates lift and channels the water towards the center of the tail fin 120. This pulls water away from the edge, and thus decreases the moving water that can be created as vortices and drag on the outer sides of the tail fin 120. The tip [128] 148 of the tail fin edge 129 decreases in size and tapers to a point to enable the drag to be further reduced. The flow of water 400, shown by dashed lines,

over the tail fin 120[, shown by dashed lines,] illustrates the lifting surface 123 of the tail fin 120. An important part of this embodiment 120 is the attaching arm [142] 122 which is centrally located on the longitudinal axis of the ergonomic swim fin apparatus 1000. The attaching arm [142] 122 must have the strength of material to be flexed in opposite directions during each stroke the swimmer takes. The flexing is necessary to align the tail fin 120 to the flow of water 400 at a proper angle of attack so that lift is created to aid in swimming.

58. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 33, line 11, to read as follows:

FIG. 23 shows a possible tail fin embodiment 140 where the leading edge 144 and the [trailing edge] tail curve 141 are both curved towards the center of the tail fin 140. These [curved] lifting surfaces 143 serve to channel the water into a relatively small vector of water in the center of the tail fin [120] 140. Again, this pulls the water away from the tips 148 of the tail fin 140 and reduces drag. The flow of water 400 shown in dashed line, also illustrates the lifting surface 143 of the tail fin 140. In both FIG. 22 and FIG. 23 the space between the flexible blade 110 and the tail fin 120 and 140 respectively is very important. The flexible blade 110 should assist in

directing the flow of water over the lifting surface 123 and 143 of the tail fins 120 and 140 respectively.

59. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 35, line 2, to read as follows:

In FIG. 24, one means of attaching a tail fin 140 to a flexible blade 110 is illustrated. In this embodiment 140, the [central neck] extended neck 142 extends symmetrically from the longitudinal axis of the tail fin 140 where the left side 127 and the right side 128 are mirror images of each other in a symmetrical configuration for securement to the central portion of the flexible [flat] blade 110. Any known securement means may be used. FIG. 24 has specialized adaptations including a tail fin slit 1421 and a securing receptacle 1181, for releasable securement of the extended neck 142 of the tail fin 140 to the central longitudinal axis of the flexible blade 110.

60. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 35, line 9, to read as follows:

A [securing hook] releasable fastener 118 is preferably located on both sides of the flexible blade 110. By having securing receptacles 1181 on both the lower and the upper portions of the attaching extended neck 142, these receptacles 1181 can slip over the securing hooks 118 to provide a simple, easy, and secure method of attaching the tail fin 140 to the flexible

blade 110. Releasable securement of the tail fin 140 to the flexible [flat] blade 110 allows different styles, shapes and sizes of tail fins 140 to be selectively attached to a single flexible blade 110.

61. Please amend the paragraph in the specification beginning on page 35, line 16, to read as follows:

The specialized adaptation of a tail fin slit 1421 is preferably a thin membrane of the [flexible arm] extended neck 142 which would act to form tension between the tail fin 140 and the flexible blade 110, to keep the security hook 118 secured in the [security] securing receptacle 1181. This tension would only be great enough to keep the tail fin 120 from separating from the flexible blade 110 during use, but allow for the user to pull the [attaching upper and lower arms] securement means 145 away from the securing hook 118 when a change of tail fins 140 is desired.

62. Please amend the specification to add a parts list after the sentence on page 36, line 7, to read as follows:

Parts list

45 forces

50 stiff foot plate

55 Water pressure

101 foot-pocket

102 channeling scoops

103 securing strap

104 retaining pin

105 directional channeling curves

106 rivets

107 flaps

108 flexible blade sole

109 instep sole

110 flexible blade

115 scale or texture

116 channeling groove

117 blade tips

118 releaseable fastener

120 tail fin

121 trailing edge (of tail fin 120)

122 attaching arm (of tail fin 120)

123 lifting surface

124 leading edge (of tail fin 120)

125 connecting point

127 left side

128 right side

129 tail fin edge

130 Path of least resistance

140 tail fin

141 Tail curve (trailing edge)

142 extended neck (of tail fin 140)

143 lifting surface

144 Leading edge (of tail fin 140)

145 securement means

146 central portion (of the flexible blade)

148 tips

200 swim fin

220 internal set of reinforcing ribs

210 reinforcing ribs

250 foot pocket (or competitor swim fin)

300 leg and foot

400 water flow

500 arrow

550 dark arrow

600 lift

1000 swim fin apparatus

1001 Rigid Forebody

1002 Flexible Afterbody

1003 Tail

1005 Aquatic vehicle

1011 foot pocket grooves

1012 lower securing flaps

1013 upper securing flaps

1014 bottom instep strap

1015 top instep strap

1016 opposing fore straps

1017 hooks and loops type fasteners

1018 instep strap loop

1021 channeling scoop grooves

1022 larger channeling scoop

1027 reinforcing side

1031 Rear securing strap

1032 buckle means

1052 directional channeling curve

1066 securement means

1071 retaining slot

1081 sole grooves

1082 sole

1085 aperture

1101 flexible blade grooves

1105 pins

1111 catch

1112 hook

1181 securing receptacle

1200 swim fin apparatus

1201 tail fin grooves

1250 swim fin apparatus

1300 swimming sandal/shoe

1400 swimming sandal shoe short swim fin apparatus

1421 tail fin slit

1500 swim fin sandal apparatus

1600 swim fin apparatus

1640 swim fin apparatus

1650 swim fin

1680 swim fin apparatus